

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TRAFICANT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

UNFAIRNESS IN TAX CODE:  
MARRIAGE TAX PENALTY

(Mr. WELLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, questions are often asked why should we pass the Marriage Tax Elimination Act, and I think a series of questions best explain why. Do Americans feel that it is fair that working married couples pay more, that they pay higher taxes than identical couples living together outside of marriage? Do Americans feel that it is fair that 21 million married working couples pay on the average of \$1,400 more in higher taxes just because they are married? Do Americans feel that it is fair that there is actually an incentive in our Tax Code which encourages divorce? Of course not.

Americans recognize the marriage tax penalty is unfair, that 21 million married working couples pay \$1,400 more in higher taxes just because they are married. On the south side of Chicago and the south suburbs, \$1,400 is 1 year's tuition at Joleit Junior College, 3 months of day care at a local day care center in the south suburbs.

The Marriage Tax Elimination Act, which would eliminate the marriage tax penalty, eliminate it now, now has 238 cosponsors. It deserves bipartisan support. Let us eliminate the marriage tax penalty. Let us eliminate it now.

## THE CONSTITUTION NEVER INTENDED TO BAN SCHOOL PRAYER

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, America is still in shock. Two boys, age 11 and 13, gunned down four young students in a middle school in Arkansas, and the experts are asking what happened to parents? What happened to values? What happened to our schools?

Schools are overrun with drugs, violence, guns, rape, murder, and now even mass murder. It seems America's schools have everything, Congress, everything except prayer. Maybe the so-called experts might finally realize that a nation that denies God in our schools is a nation that encourages the devil in our schools. The Constitution never, never intended to ban school prayer and never intended to separate God and the American people. Think about it.

## YUCCA MOUNTAIN IS NOT SUITABLE FOR NUCLEAR WASTE STORAGE

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, when I was a child, people thought that little green men lived on Mars and that the Moon was made of cheese. That was when imagination was stronger than science. Unfortunately, many of my colleagues look at transporting and storing nuclear waste in much the same way.

A recent scientific study claimed that the proposed storage site at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, is at least 10 times, that is right, 10 times more prone to earthquakes and lava flows than government scientists previously estimated. Nevada ranks third in the Nation for current earthquake activity.

Recognition and proper use of this information could potentially save thousands of lives. With over 30 earthquakes a year, clearly, Yucca Mountain is not suitable, and it may very well be the worst place to store the deadliest material man has ever created.

The space program proved that little green men did not live on Mars. And as long as the DOE applies this new scientific information, America will not force little green people to live in Nevada.

## SECOND ANNUAL UNITED STATES-MEXICO BORDER CONFERENCE TO BE HELD ON CAPITOL HILL TOMORROW

(Mr. REYES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, the second annual U.S.-Mexico Border Conference will be held on Capitol Hill. The purpose of this conference is to familiarize Members of Congress and their staff with the unique changes facing the U.S.-Mexico border.

Speakers from the border area will address issues under consideration by Congress that directly affected the southwest border, including infrastructure and economic development, education and the workforce, immigration and drug trafficking, health and the environment. The luncheon keynote speaker will be Ambassador of Mexico to the United States Jesus Reyes-Heroles.

During this 1-day event, you will hear about the effects of immigration policy, problems with illegal drugs, dislocated workers, the economy of both sides of the border, and the strain on our border infrastructure due to issues in NAFTA, and health care will also be discussed.

I hope that you will join me and the U.S.-Mexico Chamber of Commerce as we explore the needs of our 2,000-mile border with Mexico and discuss serious

policy issues concerning the U.S.-Mexican border. I urge my colleagues to come and spend 1 day learning about the U.S.-Mexican border.

## TAX SYSTEM IN THIS COUNTRY IS ANTIFAMILY

(Mr. JONES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I see a lot of problems with our current tax burden, but today I want to highlight one of the biggest. The tax system in this country is antifamily. American families today spend more money on taxes than they spend on food, clothing and housing combined. They are taxed for most everything they do, even for taking the first step in getting married.

The marriage penalty is just one of many antifamily taxes in this country. It penalizes more than 21 million couples an average of \$1,400 annually simply because they are married. In my opinion, this penalty goes against the tradition moral fabric of our Nation.

It is past time that we terminate the marriage penalty and other antifamily taxes that are placing such a tremendous burden on American families. Mr. Speaker, we need to be helping families, not penalizing families.

## MORALITY IN LEADERSHIP

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the current situation at the White House has, at some point, caused each of us to pause and ask how has this soap opera changed the debate in this country? What do people care about? Is it really just the economy, stupid? Or do American citizens, as I know each of us wants to believe, hope for a truly honest and moral individual in the White House and, for that matter, in all positions of leadership.

Whatever happened to the expecting leaders who exemplified ideals of fidelity, character, honesty, and trustworthiness. If our children are not seeing these traits in us from the White House to the Halls of Congress, can we expect them to hold this high and timeless standard for themselves?

How unfortunate, the first thing that Americans now think of when we hear the name, President Clinton, has nothing to do with an African safari or balanced budget. What message is Bill Clinton sending to America? By his silence, is Bill Clinton condoning improper behavior? When will the Americans finally hear the truth? Character counts. It is that simple.

## PUT THE SOCIAL SECURITY SURPLUS IN A TRUE TRUST FUND

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1